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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/916,323 | 07/30/2001 | Mark A. Kirkpatrick | BS01-091 | 9192 |
| 45695 | 7590 | 11/20/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| WITHERS & KEYS FOR BELL SOUTH | | | NAWAZ, ASAD M | |
| P. O. BOX 71355 | | | ART UNIT | |
| MARIETTA, GA 30007-1355 | | | PAPER NUMBER | |
| | | | 2155 | |

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/916,323

Applicant(s)

KIRKPATRICK, MARK

Examiner

Asad M. Nawaz

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 August 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the election of group II, claims 15-45 on August 23, 2006. Claims 1-14 and 46-49 were canceled. No other claims have been amended, added, or canceled. Accordingly, claims 15-45 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 15-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weschler (USPAT 6,757,720) further in view of Shiman et.al (USPGPUB 2002/0019827) hereinafter referred to as Shiman.

As to claim 15, Weschler teaches an application properties server network comprising: a plurality of client application servers operating applications using a plurality of computer protocols and requiring configuration variable data to configure the applications for operation (col 1, lines 49-67; col 9, lines 3-15);

means for performing configuration services in response to configuration requests from said plurality of client application servers, said means for performing configuration services being coupled to said plurality of client application servers, said configuration services including providing configuration variable data to one of the client application servers in response to receiving a request for configuration variable data from the one client application server (Figs 2 and 3, col 9, lines 3-42 and col 10, lines

41-65); means for storing and maintaining a system of configuration variable data coupled to said means for performing configuration services; and means for interfacing said plurality of client application servers to said means for performing configuration services (col 10, lines 41-65).

However, Weschler does not explicitly indicate wherein the means for storing and maintaining comprises at least an APP table that maintains an entry for each application, a version table that maintains a entry for each version under each application and an APARM table that contains key value pairs.

Shiman teaches means for storing and maintaining comprises at least an APP table that maintains an entry for each application, a version table that maintains a entry for each version under each application and an APARM table that contains key value pairs (0100-0101, 0194-0196).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teachings of Shiman into those of Weschler to make the system better organized. Maintaining separate tables would allow for easier and more precise access to desired information, thus improving the overall system.

As to claim 16, Weschler teaches a server of claim 15 wherein said means for interfacing said plurality of client application servers to said means for performing configuration services includes a CORBA server application (col 8, lines 21-43).

As to claim 17, Weshcler teaches an application server according to claim 16, wherein said means for interfacing said plurality client application servers to said means

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for performing configuration services includes a properties server application for handling RMI requests for configuration services (col 8, lines 21-43).

As to claim 18 Weschler teaches an application server according to claim 17, wherein said means for interfacing said plurality of client application servers to said means for performing configuration services includes a common database access library (col 8, lines 21-43; col 16, lines 44-51).

As to claim 19, Weschler teaches an application server according to claim 18, wherein said means for interfacing said plurality of client application servers to said means for performing configuration services includes a database server coupled to said properties server application for handling RMI requests and said CORBA server application for interacting with said means for storing and maintaining configuration information (col 8, lines 21-43; col 16, lines 44-51).

As to claim 20, Weschler teaches an application server according to claim 15, further comprising a Java RMI API (col 8, lines 21-43; col 9, lines 43-53).

As to claim 21, Weschler teaches an application server according to claim 20, further comprising a CORBA gateway (col 8, lines 21-43).

As to claim 22, Weschler teaches an application server according to claim 21, wherein said means for performing configuration service is implemented by a base Java RMI service in a service broker framework (col 8, lines 21-43; col 9, lines 43-53; col 16, lines 44-51).

As to claim 23, Weschler teaches an application server according to claim 22, wherein said service broker framework is implemented using at least one XML service broker configuration file (col 8, lines 21-43; col 16, lines 44-51).

As to claim 24, Weschler teaches an application server according to claim 23 wherein said configuration information is stored and retrieved from said storage medium via Key value pairs (col 5, lines 39-40; col 12, lines 34-43).

As to claims 25, Weschler teaches the system of claim 15, however, Weschler does not explicitly indicate the configuration information is stored and retrieved from said storage medium via Hashtable hierarchy and the traversal of data in the form of hashtables. Shiman et al teaches the user object being preserved using a combination of hashtable and key value pairs (0101).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teachings of Shiman into those of Weschler to make the system more efficient. It is difficult for the network switches to quickly scan a table for the referenced address, locate the address, and make a frame forwarding decision as the table grows with table entries storing address information especially if the address information is stored in sequential order. It would be optimal to involve hash keys and hash tables to improve accessing of switching logic.

As to claim 28, Weschler teaches the system of claim 2 wherein said configuration information is represented by a storage schema in the form of LDAP (Fig 3, 306, 307; col 10, lines 41-65).

Claims 26-27 and 29-45 present no further limitations above the above-mentioned claims and are thus rejected under similar rationale.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Asad M. Nawaz whose telephone number is (571) 272-3988. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AMN

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SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER